

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A comparative price performance framework for allowing comparison of price performance among a plurality of brokers over a given time period, comprising:

at least one database, comprising for each broker:

a first set of data linking the broker with a plurality of clients, including transactions performed by the broker for each client during the time period, and the price charged by the broker for each said transaction; and

a second set of data comprising each broker's experience and transaction volume;

a software means in communication with the database for sorting the brokers and their respective first sets of data into a plurality of peer groups, the peer groups being based on pre-determined ranges of broker experience and transaction volume, as determined from each broker's second set of data; and

an interface in communication with the software means for displaying, for a selected broker:

price statistics for the broker's transactions during the time period; and

comparative price statistics for the transactions of brokers within the same peer group as the selected broker;

wherein the price charged by the broker for each transaction represents the broker's commission and the price statistics and the comparative price statistics are statistics on the broker's commissions.

13. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 12, wherein:

each broker's first set of data further comprises, for each client, data comprising total assets managed for the client; and

the software means further comprises means for sorting each broker's clients into a plurality of client attractiveness value (CAV) groups, the CAV groups being based on pre-determined ranges of total assets; and

the interface is further capable of displaying, for a selected broker:

price statistics for the broker's transactions during the time period sorted by CAV group; and

comparative price statistics for the transactions of other brokers sorted by CAV group.

14. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 13, wherein the other brokers comprise brokers from the selected broker's peer group.

15. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 12, wherein the price statistics and the comparative price statistics comprise at least one statistic from the group consisting of: total revenues, average price per transaction, price realization ratio, and price to principal ratio.

16. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 12, wherein the brokers comprise securities brokers.

17. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 12, wherein the interface is further capable of displaying, for a selected peer group and selected price statistic, a rank list of brokers within that peer group ordered according to said selected price statistic.

18. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 17, wherein the database further comprises at least one target value for a price statistic and the interface is further capable of displaying one or more actual values of a selected price statistic concurrently with the target value for the selected price statistic to permit comparison.

19. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 18, wherein the target value is linked to a broker in the database.

20. (Currently Amended) A comparative price performance framework for allowing comparison of price performance among a plurality of brokers over a given time period, comprising:

at least one database, comprising for each broker:

a set of data linking the broker with a plurality of clients, including transactions performed by the broker for each client during the time period, total assets managed for each client, and price charged by the broker for each said transaction; and

a software means in communication with the database for sorting the clients for each broker into a plurality of client attractiveness value (CAV) groups, the CAV groups being based on pre-determined ranges of total assets; and

an interface in communication with the software means for displaying, for a selected broker:

price statistics for the broker's transactions during the time period sorted by CAV group; and

comparative price statistics for the transactions of other brokers sorted by CAV group;

wherein the price charged by the broker for each transaction represents the broker's commission and the price statistics and the comparative price statistics are statistics on the broker's commissions.

21. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 20, wherein the price statistics and the comparative price statistics comprise at least one statistic from the group consisting of: total revenues, average price per transaction, price realization ratio, and price to principal ratio.

22. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 20, wherein the brokers comprise securities brokers.

23. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 20, wherein the database comprises one or more firms of brokers.

24. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 23, wherein the interface is further capable of displaying, for a selected broker, comparative price statistics for the transactions of brokers within the same firm as the selected broker.

25. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 23, wherein the interface is further capable of displaying, for a selected firm and selected price statistic, a rank list of brokers within the selected firm ordered according to said selected price statistic.

26. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 23, wherein the database further comprises at least one target value for a price statistic and the interface is further capable of displaying one or more actual values of a selected price statistic concurrently with the target value for the selected price statistic to permit comparison.

27. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 26, wherein the target value is linked to a broker in the database.

28. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 26, wherein the target value is linked to a firm in the database.

29. (Currently Amended) A comparative price performance framework for allowing comparison of price performance among a plurality of brokers over a given time period, comprising:

at least one database, comprising for each broker:

a set of data linking the broker with a plurality of transactions performed by the broker during the time period, type of each said transaction, principal value of each said transaction, and price charged by the broker for each said transaction; and

a software means in communication with the database for sorting the transactions for each broker into pre-determined transaction groups based on one or both of the following criteria:

the type of the transaction; and

the principal value of the transaction;

an interface in communication with the software means for displaying, for a selected broker:

price statistics for the broker's transactions during the time period sorted by transaction group; and

comparative price statistics during the time period of other brokers sorted by transaction group;

wherein the price charged by the broker for each transaction represents the broker's commission and the price statistics and the comparative price statistics are statistics on the broker's commissions.

30. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 29, wherein the price statistics and the comparative price statistics comprise at least one statistic from the group consisting of: total revenues, average price per transaction, price realization ratio, and price to principal ratio.

31. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 29, wherein the brokers comprise securities brokers.

32. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 29, wherein the database comprises one or more firms of brokers.

33. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 32, wherein the interface is further capable of displaying, for a selected broker, comparative price statistics for the transactions of brokers within the same firm as the selected broker.

34. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 32, wherein the interface is further capable of displaying, for a selected firm and selected price statistic, a rank list of brokers within the selected firm ordered according to said selected price statistic.

35. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 32, wherein the database further comprises at least one target value for a price statistic and the interface is further capable of displaying one or more actual values of a selected price statistic concurrently with the target value for the selected price statistic to permit comparison.

36. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 35, wherein the target value is linked to a broker in the database.

37. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 35, wherein the target value is linked to a firm in the database.